

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, U.S. farmers have stored record amounts of their harvests, due in part to lost sales from the Trump Administration's trade war with China, Missouri's number one purchaser of soybean exports; and

Whereas, as of March 1, 2019, American farmers held 2.716 billion bushels of soybean stock, the largest on record for this time of year; and

Whereas, as of March 1, 2019, American farmers held the third-largest on record stock of corn; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, in 2018 Missouri farmers produced: 4,760,000 tons of hay; 1,300,000 tons of corn; 835,000 480 lb bales of cotton; 261,000,000 Bushels of soybeans; 17,090,000 CWT of rice; and 30,680,000 Bushels of wheat; and

Whereas, widespread flooding devastated the American Midwest in mid-March and caused millions of bushels of crops to be damaged or lost; and

Whereas, the magnitude of these losses is exacerbated by the additional crops stored in response to the Trump Administration's trade war with China; and

Whereas, U.S. Agriculture Under Secretary Bill Northey has stated that the USDA has no mechanism to compensate farmers for damaged crops in storage; and

Whereas, last year, the USDA made, without Congressional approval, \$12 billion in government assistance available to farmers who suffered losses under the Trump Administration's trade war; and

Whereas, despite other assistance programs, the USDA has no existing program to cover the catastrophic and largely uninsured stored-crop losses from the widespread flooding; and

Whereas, Congressional approval would be needed to create a new program to provide government assistance to American farmers who lost stored crops during recent severe weather:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to pass emergency legislation to provide additional government assistance to American farmers whose crops were stored as a result of the Trump Administration's trade war with China and subsequently damaged or lost during severe weather; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Missouri's Congressional delegation.